



The Hawaiian Sugar Planters finished the business of their eighteenth annual meeting this week without adopting any method for concerted action in procuring foreign labor. The problem was left to a committee of three for solution, and when the solution is reached the committee will report. An interested community are waiting for that report with considerable impatience. Our planters have so long been used to contract labor that they find themselves unprepared to abandon it altogether and substitute systems that have been only partially tried. As to the nationality of the labor to be next employed, there are almost as many opinions among the planters as there are nations on the face of the earth, while there is very little said against the old stand-by—the Asiatic. The Chinaman is the favorite, but he is barred. The Japanese will satisfy most sugar men if the leasehold system is adopted. The American negro has some would-be patrons, but his combative propensities are against him. The German and the Scandinavian are apt to organize strikes, and the Portuguese dislikes the companionship of Asiatics on the plantation. Italy has a vast number of poor farmers, some of the best of whom Mr. Damon is trying to lead this way.

Planters and Labor. The WEEKLY expressed the belief two weeks ago that the only logical course for the planters to pursue, in the face of the Exclusion and Anti-Contract Acts, would be to grant leaseholds to all-comers for the growing of the cane. Mr. Baldwin and some other planters hold the same view, as the plan has been tried successfully in numerous places. However, little can be said or done in this direction till the trustees' committee finish their labor.

The Philippine Question. Although the latest editorials, especially from Western sources, seem to concur that the present aggressive movement against Aguinaldo is only "the beginning of the end," that is purely an optimistic view of the case.

Aguinaldo is a fox with many holes. At the moment that the crafty Filipino is supposed to be entrapped at Bayabang, near Tarlac, he turns up seventy-five miles away from the snare at Boombang. By placing himself out of communication with Tarlac, he undoubtedly cuts himself off from the populous and fertile country surrounding it, which has hitherto formed his base of supplies. Organized resistance to Federal authority is undoubtedly weakened by Aguinaldo's retreating tactics; but the crafty gentleman must be captured before the "beginning of the end" is reached.

Putting aside an organized defense on the part of the insurgents, as long as guerilla warfare is waged, American occupation will be simply a name. Outside of Luzon the insurrection grows instead of decreasing. In Wundanao, the second largest island, incalculably rich in minerals and woods, the insurgents hold important ports. In Negros and Cebu, General Otis reports fighting between the 19th, 18th and 6th Infantry and the robber bands.

The insurgents seem to feel easy at the present state of affairs. They have 42,000 miles of territory from which to

draw supplies, and boats coming without opposition from Hongkong, Japan, Central and South America and Australia.

One of the important objects of the campaign is the Manila and Dagupan railroad, the possession of which will cut off the provinces of Zambales, Paggasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga and Batavia, and give the American army the claim to a larger expanse of country to operate on than the town lot on which the army now camps. North of Angeles, when we get there, will be met the torn-up track, burned rails and burned ties.

It is interesting to note the *Army and Navy Register* of the 4th inst. In an editorial the attitude is firmly taken, while praising General Otis and his staff, that further help is urgently needed.

In past experience, guerilla warfare has been the hardest to combat. While it exists, the commercial value of the Philippines is practically *non est*. The only proved remedy for guerilladom is compromise. It is a nasty pill to swallow, but the cure seems the only practical one, and the illness is an expensive one with alarming items. The loss of the Charleston is simply an addition to the enormous expense-account paid in lives and cash, with what return? The doubtful prestige of a lengthy war. The Philippines are of undoubted strategic importance in our future operations, commercial and otherwise, in the Pacific; but a scheme of autonomy could surely be drafted that would, while satisfying the Tagals, retain to us most of the advantages of possession without the expensive and dangerous luxury of unconstitutional colonization.

America's Share in Samoa. Although no official statement has been received from London of the Tripartite Agreement, America's share in Samoa is practically defined. One most important item is the possession of Pago Pago, generally considered by experts as the finest harbor in the Pacific ocean.

The United States becomes possessed of all the islands of the Samoan group, which lies east of the 171st meridian of longitude. These islands comprise Tutuila, which contains the harbor of Pago Pago, and, further east, Manua, Oloosinga, Ofoo and Rose Islands.

In the island of Tutuila, besides five reef harbors similar to those of Upolu, there is the harbor of Pago Pago, which is a deep and land-locked basin whose easy approach and perfect security for vessels causes it to outweigh in value all the other islands of the group.

In Boerdom. The situation in the Transvaal is still marked by meagre news, and little change in the aspect of affairs. It is evident that the Boers are straining every effort to reduce Ladysmith before the relief arrives.

Whether the town can withstand the heavy bombardment is still an open issue, with slight odds of the British. Continued possession in the face of investment is, if not nine-tenths of the law in warfare, a favorable percentage.

The arrival of the troop-ships at the Cape, while giving an impetus to British arms, does not necessarily mean the speedy closing of the campaign. It is quite within the bounds of probability that England will be compelled to send a portion of her second army corps, now being mobilized, before General Sir Redvers Bulwer can assume the crushing, aggressive tactics expected to end the war. The army corps now rapidly concentrating at Cape Town will have to be split in order to relieve Ladysmith and check the Boer advance into Southern Natal. The force then remaining at General Buller's disposal, while powerful enough to